

## Identification

Puncture vine (*Tribulus Terrestris*) is an annual native to Southern Europe that spreads along the ground forming mats of stems.

- Branching stems grow up to 6 feet long.
- Leaves are opposite of each other on stems and are divided into leaflets, each with hairs about 1/4 inch long.
- Small, yellow, 5-petal flowers are borne on short stalks at leaf nodes.
- Its circular, spiny burrs separate into 5 sections when ripe.



## Growth & Spread

Puncture vine reproduces seeds. Seeds germinate in late spring and early summer. Flowers may form within three weeks and continue forming for several months. Sharp-spined burrs are produced through summer and fall and are dispersed by sticking into tires, shoes, clothing, fur, feathers, and animal feet. Seeds can remain dormant in the soil for many years.



## Why should I Care?

Puncture vine can quickly form large infestations in the right conditions. Its foliage is toxic to livestock, especially sheep when consumed in quantity. The spines of the fruit can injure the feet of animals and people as well as **damage property** such as puncturing bicycle tires, making it a problem in recreational areas.

## Puncture vine Control

Puncture vine spreads by seed so controlling plants prior to seed production will prevent further seed entering the seedbank. When working in puncture vine infestations, make sure to clean shoes, clothing and tires to prevent spreading seeds to other areas.

### Mechanical:

Puncture vine can be hand-pulled or controlled by hoeing, ideally prior to seed formation in the spring. If plants have seeds make sure to remove all possible spiny burr from the ground. Make sure to wear gloves when removing puncture vine and be careful of the sharp spines. Mowing is ineffective due to the plant's low growth form.

### Chemical:

Appropriate herbicide use can provide effective control of puncture vine. After the plants have emerged from the soil, post-emergent, products are effective. The smaller younger the plant, the better the post-emergent herbicides work. Always read the label instructions before applying and herbicides for proper rate and timing.



## Where does it grow?

Puncture vine is often found on dry or gravelly sites, like roadsides, gravel parking lots, and vacant lots. It will grow in many types of soils, including compacted soil, sand to clayey soils, dry or moist soils, and poor or rich soils. It grows best in areas where competition from other plants is limited.



## Noxious Weeds in Oregon

“Noxious Weed” means a plant that when established is highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices.

Noxious weeds reduce crop yields, destroy native plant and animal habitat, damage recreational opportunities, clog waterways, lower land values, and poison or harm people and livestock.

Puncture vine is a Class B noxious weed in Oregon

## Contact Us

If you have questions about puncture vine control, identification or about other noxious weeds, we can help. Please contact us at:

City of Madras  
125 SW E Street  
Madras, Oregon 97741

541-475-2344



*It is a violation of Section 6 of the Nuisance Ordinance to allow noxious vegetation on the Property. It is the duty of the property owner and/or person in charge of the Property to maintain the Property. Failure to do so may lead to the City abating the identified nuisance in accordance with the Nuisance Ordinance, assess fines of not less than \$500.00 per day, per violation*



Puncture Vine

